

Douglass House
Mahlon Stacy Park
Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
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133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Douglass House
Mahlon Stacy Park
Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey

Owner: State of New Jersey

Date of Erection: 1766

Architect:

Builder: George Bright

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - poured concrete

Exterior walls - frame construction, beaded siding

Interior walls - plaster

Floors - random width pine

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch, slate

Historical Data:

The Douglass House originally stood on the south side of Broad Street where the German Evangelical Lutheran Church now stands. On the church appears a bronze tablet inscribed:

"Here in the house of Alexander Douglass, Washington called a council of war on the evening of January 2, 1777, when the flank movement to Princeton was decided upon."

The building was moved later to 478 Centre Street and then to Mahlon Stacy Park.

The house was built by George Bright about 1766 on lot number 9 "New Town of Kingsbury". It came in the possession of Douglass in 1766 and remained in his possession until 1836 when it was passed to Joseph Douglass, a nephew, and later to Ann Douglass. Ann Douglass sold it in 1852.

The German Lutheran Congregation used the house as a parsonage until a larger church became necessary in 1871 when the house was sold and moved to 478 Centre Street. Here it was remodelled for tenant purposes. In 1913 Adjutant General Sadler obtained an option. This he later turned over to the Trenton Catholic Club. In 1923 it was moved from Centre Street to its present site in Mahlon Stacy Park by the State of New Jersey. It was dedicated on January 1926 to the public.

Alexander Douglass, who owned the house during the Revolution, was a Quartermaster in the Revolutionary Army. This house became the headquarters of Brigadier St. Clair. Here the conference between Washington and his staff took place the night before the Battle of Princeton. This house was selected largely because it was situated further from the fire of the enemy than was Washington's Headquarters at the True American Inn.

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Walter C. Hewitt

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